

REMARKS

Claims 31-34, 36, 37, 39-50, 55, and 56 remain pending in this application.

Claims 31, 55 and 56 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 31, 55, and 56 are independent.

Applicants' Amendment filed January 2, 2002 was deemed non-responsive for presenting claims considered to be directed to a non-elected invention. As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for granting a telephone interview on April 2, 2002 to clarify the Examiner's rationale for finding the previously-filed Amendment to be non-responsive. As summarized in the Interview Summary mailed April 9, 2002, the Examiner explained his position that, prior to amendment, Claim 31 was directed to performing character recognition on information in digital form, while amended Claim 31 (as presented in the Amendment of January 2, 2002) was directed to performing character recognition on information in "optical form".

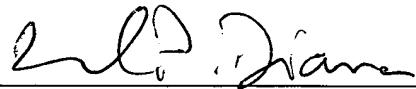
Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Claim 31 as presented in the amendment filed January 2, 2002. Claim 31 recited "analyzing obtained image data by using optical character recognition", and Claims 55 and 56 similarly recited this feature. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a well-known term of art. As discussed in the specification, e.g., at page 36, line 20 through page 37, line 20, OCR is a pattern matching method that may be implemented by a CPU to perform character recognition on digital character data. Thus, analysis of image data using OCR is a process that is performed on digital data, rather than a hypothetical process in which characters in "optical form" are recognized. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the claims presented in the Amendment of January 2, 2002 were proper. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of

the subject application, Applicants have amended Claims 31, 55, and 56 to eliminate the term "optical" and to clarify that the recited analysis is performed on obtained digital image data.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES

31. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
obtaining means for obtaining digital image data generated by scanning a
sheet;
[optical] character recognition means for analyzing said obtained digital
image data by [using optical] performing character recognition;
determining means for determining a type of character data [of] included in
the [optical] character recognition result based on the characters of the [optical] character
recognition result;
a display controller that controls a display of said digital image data and a
plurality of frames containing the character data according to each type determined by said
determining means; and
memory for storing the image data with the character data contained in the
frames for each type [of character].

55. (Twice Amended) An information processing method comprising
the steps of:
obtaining digital image data generated by scanning a sheet;
analyzing said obtained digital image data by [using optical] performing
character recognition;

determining a type of character data [from] included in the [optical] character recognition result based on the characters of the [optical] character recognition result;

controlling a display of said digital image data and a plurality of frames containing the character data according to each determined type of character; and
storing the image data with the character data contained in the frames for each type.

56. (Amended) A computer program for a computer, comprising software codes for performing the following steps:

obtaining digital image data generated by scanning a sheet;
analyzing said obtained digital image data by [using optical] performing character recognition;
determining a type of character data [of] included in the [optical] character recognition result based on the characters of the [optical] character recognition result;
controlling a display of said digital image data and a plurality of frames containing the character data according to each determined type of character; and
storing the image data with the character data contained in the frames for each type.